

HMLA-467 SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY



Every Saber Marine or Sailor is essential to mission success. The excessive abuse of drugs or alcohol by any Saber has the potential to directly affect our prime focus, which is readiness. Prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs and alcohol can be just as dangerous as illegal drugs when used in excess and in ways counter to their intended purpose. Drug and alcohol abuse affect an individual's judgment, decision-making, and the ability to assess risks and act responsibly. This jeopardizes mission readiness and unnecessarily risks lives, which is unacceptable. I expect you as Sabers to act responsibly, or you will be held accountable for your actions.

- ◆ **Do the right thing, always.** Drinking underage, using illegal drugs for any reason, or abusing prescription drugs is illegal and therefore runs directly counter to this principle. For Marines that are over 21 and choose to drink, I expect you to drink responsibly. This means limiting your intake of alcohol, and having a plan before any activity that may involve alcohol if you intend to drink—BEFORE you drink.
- ◆ **Build good habits.** As adults, Marines, and professionals, it is time to learn to drink and act responsibly as a habit, should you choose to drink.
- ◆ **Never leave a Marine behind.** In most cases of illegal drug or prescription drug abuse, alcohol abuse, or driving under the influence of alcohol, it is likely that there was another Marine who witnessed it or knew it was happening. You are failing your fellow Marine or Sailor if you don't intervene before he/she is allowed to continue these acts. ***I will make a hero out of any Marine who intervenes or reports such acts, before they go bad, regardless of rank.***
- ◆ **Always improve your position.** Helping to rid your unit of substance abusers will improve readiness without fail. Help me to help those Sabers who joined the Marine Corps and this unit for the right reasons. There is no room for bums in this unit. We have a mission to do!

Anyone classified as having a drug or alcohol incident will be referred to the Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO), screened, counseled, and sent to the Consolidated Substance Abuse Counseling Center (CSACC) for a Medical Officer's evaluation. If a member is diagnosed as alcohol or drug dependent, they will be assigned to the appropriate treatment facility. Upon successful completion of treatment, personnel will return to their work center without prejudice. Treatment failures will be processed for separation from military service.

Every Saber is essential to this command and critical to achieving mission success. To degrade our mission readiness and combat effectiveness due to irresponsible behavior, unnecessary risk or illegal activity is simply not acceptable.

If you have any questions, contact a **Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO)**, Captain Patrick Healy at (910)449-5078 or Staff Sergeant Robert Meisner at (910)449-5075.

LtCol David B. Moore
Commanding Officer

